

// A special meeting of the Council of the City of Lynchburg, recessed from July 12, was held on the 19th day of July, 2005, at 7:00 P.M., Council Chambers, City Hall, Carl B. Hutcherson, Jr., President, presiding. The purpose of the meeting was for City Council and the Planning Commission to receive the results of the Midtown Plan. The following Members were present:

Present: Dodson, Foster, Gillette, Helgeson, Johnson, Seiffert, Hutcherson

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Absent:

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// Representatives from Dover, Kolh & Partners presented the results of a study conducted of the Midtown area, which is bounded by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Bridge to the east, Fort Avenue to the south, the Lakeside Drive entrance to Lynchburg College to the west, and the Blackwater Creek Trail to the north. Mr. Victor Dover presented an overview regarding the four main ideas in the Plan, and stated the need for a renewed confidence in Midtown. Mr. Dover went on to say that reaching a new, pedestrian-friendly, tree-lined network of streets would require business and government leaders to unify, for smaller businesses to take risks, and for the City to make a financial investment in the area. Mr. Dover explained that in order for the Plan to work, the City will need to develop "form-based codes," which would replace zoning ordinances and put an emphasis on how a building looks and where it is situated on a parcel of land rather than what it is used for, develop an economic development "pilot" program, inviting businesses to propose model projects for the area, purchase more "greenspace" over at least the next five years to make the Blackwater Creek Trail more included in Midtown, and continue historic preservation efforts. Mr. Dover also addressed a recent controversial rezoning matter regarding a request to build a Walgreens store on part of an apartment complex at the corner of Langhorne and Murrell Roads, and stated that the spot they have chosen would not be the best spot for the store and that City Council should rezone land very selectively. Mr. Dover also noted that the Plan recommends relocating the Greater Lynchburg Transit Company's bus transfer station from its Plaza location to perhaps into the Kemper Street station. After the presentation, several Council Members commented that the Midtown Plan should not detract or take away from what the City is currently doing in the Downtown area. Some Council Members commented that they would like to see continued dialogue with the stakeholders and for the process to move forward to include the Midtown Plan in the Comprehensive Plan. Council Member Helgeson stated that due to the complexity of the Plan, that maybe City Council should discuss the Plan further at the upcoming Council retreat.

// The meeting was recessed at 9:05 p.m. to August 9, 1:00 p.m., to conduct a work session regarding several items.

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Clerk of Council